



Read to be Ready
Independent Reading and
Reading Conferences



Module 6: An Environment That Supports Independence

Objectives

- Consider the characteristics of a classroom environment that support a community of independent readers
- Examine the physical characteristics of a classroom environment that is designed for independence
- Understand how to establish routines for managing independent and collaborative work

Link to Tennessee Academic Standards

Independent reading focuses on **Reading** and **Foundational Literacy** standards, while incorporating additional **Writing** and **Speaking & Listening** standards through responding, conferring, and tasks.

TEAM Connection

- Standards and Objectives
- **Motivating Students**
- Teacher Knowledge of Students
- Thinking
- Expectations
- **Managing Student Behavior**
- Environment
- Respectful Culture

How to Establish a Supportive Community of Readers

Think about a group or organization to which you belong.

- Why do you feel a sense of belonging to that group?
- How does a shared sense of belonging contribute the success of the group in achieving its goals?

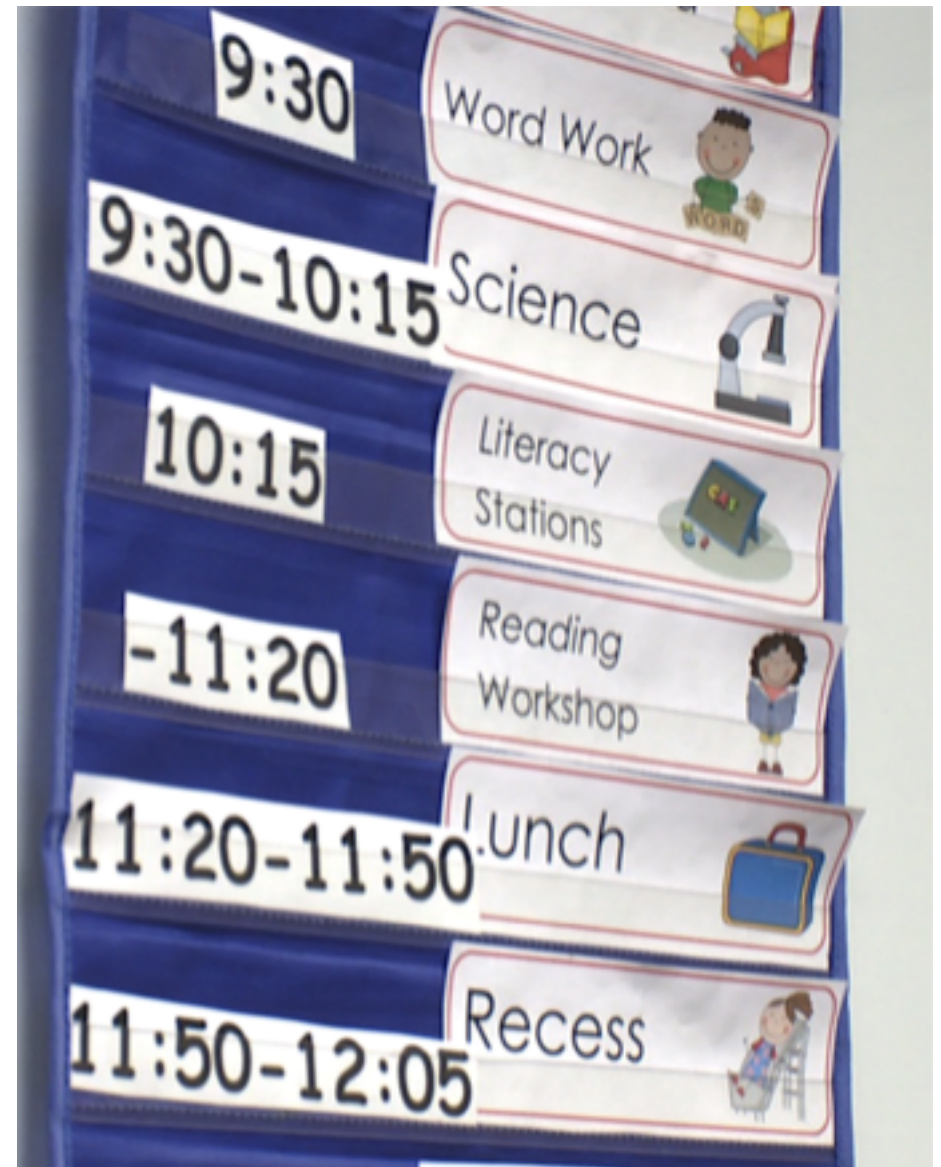
A Climate of Acceptance & Inclusivity

- Read the quotes displayed throughout the room.
- Move to the quote to which you respond most strongly.
- In your group, discuss:
 - What personal or professional experiences made this quote meaningful to you?
 - If a teacher values this statement, what will their classroom look like, sound like, and feel like?

A Community of Independent Readers

- Predictability
- Peaceful Environment
- Choice
- Self-Regulation

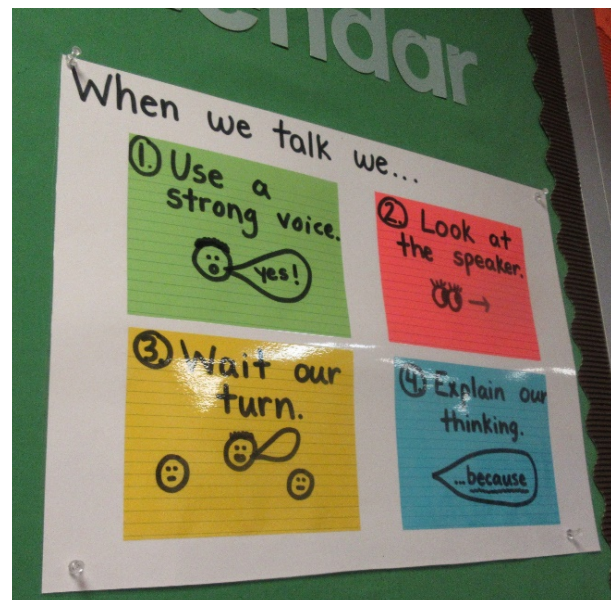
Predictability



Peaceful Environment

"The classroom should be a place where people speak to each other with respect and listen courteously. The general tone of voice should be soft."

Fountas & Pinnell, 2017



Choice

“Having control over one's learning nourishes the sense of agency. Buckley (2015) describes how even very young children learn to make choices, and they are more eager, have more stamina, and are more likely to demonstrate on task behavior when they see themselves as having a role in their own learning.”

Fountas & Pinnell, 2017



Self-Regulation

“Agency is a critical element in self-regulation. If you have the power over your own learning and a chance to change, then you are able to manage your progress toward the goal.”

Fountas & Pinnell, 2017

Socially and Emotionally Healthy Readers

“If they are to grow as thoughtful users of literacy, students need to build social and emotional abilities. It is worthwhile to consciously teach social and emotional health along with literacy. As teachers we want to communicate daily in a way that honors readers and writers and helps them develop a sense of agency—people who believe that they can act with effectiveness.”

Fountas & Pinnell, 2017

How does teaching social and personal (emotional) health support students in becoming thoughtful users of literacy?

- Use a notecard to answer question.
- Begin with “One thing I want to remember about the ways teaching social and personal (emotional) health supports students in literacy is...”

How the Physical Environment Supports Independent Reading

- Analyzing the Classroom Environment

How to Establish Routines for Managing Independent Work

- Managing independent reading in kindergarten and grade 1 classrooms
- Managing independent reading in grades 2–3 classrooms
- Using whole group share to foster strong routines and high expectations

Independent Reading and Reading Conferences: Synthesis

- Individually:
 - Return to the chart at the beginning of Module 2 (page 15 in your manual), “Reflecting on Current Understanding: Independent Reading and Reading Conferences.”
 - Reread the statements that you placed a star or question mark next to. Consider how your thinking has grown throughout this module.
- With your table group:
 - On chart paper, create a list of questions you have related to independent reading and reading conferences to share with your facilitator. These questions will be considered when designing future learning sessions.

Guide to Planning for Independent Reading and Reading Conferences

- Read through the “Guide to Planning for Independent Reading and Reading Conferences”

Integrating the Elements of the Literacy Block

- Brainstorm “Tips and Tricks” for integrating all of the elements of the literacy block.
 - **Group 1:** Ideas for scheduling
 - **Group 2** Ideas for planning effectively and efficiently
 - **Group 3:** Ideas for making assessment and record-keeping systematic

Closing Words

“The amount of enthusiasm for independent reading is the real measure of a successful literacy classroom. The outcome is the child's confidence, agency, and engagement in independent reading for a lifetime.”

Fountas & Pinnell, 2017